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eye

Tuesday
DECEMBER 20, 2011

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A Chicago Tribune
publication

ENTER THE DRAGON

'Tattoo' this: Rooney Mara's bringing badass back for the holidays **pages 16-17**

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TOY FOR A LAP DANCE: IT'S A DEAL! **7**

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BY RENEE MAILHOT | METROMIXINTERN@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

EAT

SO MEATY Getta Polpetta

Get out for your lunch break and track down the Getta Polpetta Truck, the latest addition to the meals on wheels craze. Grab a meatball sandwich (or a vegetarian alternative), complete with owner Anna Caterini's mother's traditional recipe, along with chips and a drink. Get the route schedule on Twitter @GettaPolpetta. Prices vary.

PRE-HOLIDAY FODDER

Kit Kat Lounge & Supper Club

3700 N. Halsted St. 773-525-1111

Famished after last-minute shopping? Fuel up at a prix-fixe meal at this Boystown joint. Through Dec. 24, you can feast on beef bourguignon paired with a grilled baguette and roasted poussin with cauliflower purée, then follow it up with a holiday-themed martini. 5:30 p.m. \$30.



WRAP IT UP Falafill

3202 N. Broadway 773-525-0052

Wish you could sample "Top Chef" contestant Sarah Grueneberg's concoctions in person? Consider grabbing a guest wrap from the Spiaggia chef this month as part of a charity effort with The Greater Chicago Food Depository. Grueneberg combines Falafill's falafel with a basil pesto, green beans, crispy potatoes, celery and pickled red onion. 11 a.m. \$5.95. **BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO**

DRINK

THIRSTY TUESDAY Cortland's Garage

1645 W. Cortland St. 773-862-7877

Gear up for the impending holiday weekend and relieve some stress with \$1 off all beers and half-priced bottles of wine. Share an appetizer to soak up the booze for half the price, too. 5 p.m. Prices vary.

DO

SIP 'N' SHOP Salmon Cove

318 W. Grand Ave. 312-521-0318

Sneak a peek—er, taste—of what up-and-coming website Winestyr has to offer while scoring a few gifts at this jointly held holiday party. Shop for discounted apparel as part of the trunk show from Salmon Cove, and enjoy samples of small-lot California-based wines from Winestyr founders. 5:30 p.m.



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SHOPPERS TIP OF THE DAY

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WALLING OFF

North Korea likely to seclude itself more in wake of leader's death

MCT

WASHINGTON With the passing of North Korean strongman Kim Jong Il, experts said Monday, the nuclear-armed nation is likely to retreat into greater seclusion from the world while the political transition sorts itself out.

"The leadership will be in a hunker-down mode for at least the next couple of months or possibly longer," said Peter M. Beck, a longtime North Korea watcher and fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

The Pyongyang capital's propaganda arm wasted no time in labeling Kim Jong Il's third son, Kim Jong Un, a Swiss-educated man thought to be 27 years old, as a "great successor" and a "distinguished leader of the military and people." But North Koreans are as unfamiliar with Kim Jong Un as the rest of the world is.

His name was mentioned in public for the first time only 15 months ago,



Pyongyang residents react Monday to the death of Kim Jong Il. **KYODO**

when he was promoted to a four-star army general despite a thin leadership record. His father never explicitly and publicly endorsed him as successor.

"We know very little about him. He was brought into the public eye in

September of last year, and this is not enough to give him legitimacy," said Ruediger Frank, a North Korea expert at the University of Vienna.

In a sign that North Korea was sealing itself off for a period, the nation said it wouldn't accept foreign delegations for Kim Jong Il's funeral Dec. 28 or a national memorial service the next day, when guns will boom, sirens will wail and three minutes of silence will descend on the last Stalinist state in the world.

Television images showed North Koreans weeping and falling to the ground to lament the passing of the 69-year-old known as "dear leader."

President Obama and other world leaders turned their eyes to North Korea, which conducted nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009, aware that the transition could bring opportunity for new engagement—or lead to deadly provocations on the Korean Peninsula.

The White House said Obama had spoken with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak to reaffirm Washington's "strong commitment to the stability of the Korean Peninsula."

POP CULTURE & POLITICS

Kim Jong Il was reviled by human rights groups for jailing or starving hundreds of thousands of North Koreans and foreign diplomats hated his proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear sabre-rattling. He also was comedic gold in popular culture. **REUTERS**

The Onion

Kim and his eccentric state were a frequent butt of jokes by U.S. television comedians, while satirical website The Onion ran a story in which Kim's son wondered privately whether he was crazy enough to run North Korea.



'Team America: World Police'

He also was immortalized in the 2004 movie in which a foul-mouthed Kim dropped U.N. nuclear inspector Hans Blix through a trap door into a shark pit

Jay Leno

"The Globe reports that North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il raises money by selling fake Viagra pills. What is it about this guy? None of his missiles seem to launch."

—Late-night host **Jay Leno** once quipped after a failed North Korean rocket test.



Tumblr

"Kim Jong Il Looking at Things" and its sarcastic look at North Korean state media propaganda photos of Kim inspecting shops and factories in his country was

shared widely on Facebook after Kim's death.

The Economist

In 2000, as North Korea started a cautious opening to South Korea, The Economist magazine put a waving Kim on its cover under the headline "Greetings, earthlings."

What's around the bend on CTA?



GOING PUBLIC

Tracy Swartz

 » tswartz
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Change was a hot topic of the CTA this year—and not just because a new debit-credit fare system could reduce coin transactions in the next few years.

Other changes announced this year: Longtime politico Forrest Claypool was named CTA president in April, and workers have

been sprucing up train stations for the past few months. Meanwhile, some CTA shelters now have Bus Tracker displays, while security cameras have been installed in each CTA station.

Elsewhere, Red Line tracks on the South Side are being rehabbed, more Redbox kiosks are being installed at some CTA stops, and the Oakton Street Yellow Line stop is being built.

Here's what to look forward to in the upcoming months.

JANUARY: Negotiations between CTA management and the unions is slated to begin. The CTA is asking for \$80 million in work rule changes to close a \$277 million budget hole. If there is no deal, there may be service cuts and/or fare hikes next year.

SUMMER 2012: The Morgan Street "L" stop on the Green and Pink lines should be complete. The station, at Morgan and Lake streets on the Near West Side, will feature elevators and covered platforms.

FALL 2012: The first bus rapid transit pilot program will begin on Jeffery Boulevard. The project is set to feature bus-only lanes between 67th and 83rd streets during rush hour.

Meanwhile, traffic signals between 73rd and 84th streets will provide an early or extended green light so buses can travel through the intersection faster.

WINTER 2012: The CTA said the Blue Line trains with the accordion doors that are not accessible for riders with disabilities should be phased out in the next year. As the CTA replaces older cars on the Green and Pink lines with the new rail cars with the aisle-facing seats, the older cars move to the Blue Line and the cars with the accordion doors are pulled from service.

Tracking the trucks

One CTA trend that likely will grow in the new year is food trucks setting up shop near "L" stops. Getta Polpetta, a meatball truck, is the latest to take advantage of the convenience of the CTA.

Chef Anna Caterinicchia, whose truck debuts Tuesday, said she is hoping CTA riders will direct her to the best stops to sell her food. "Someone's recommendations would be a lot of fun," said Caterinicchia, 43, of the West Loop. "Might give the riders something to do."

Caterinicchia isn't alone in using the CTA. On Monday, a few food trucks parked near "L" stops including 5411 Empanadas, which serves Argentine empanadas, outside the Merchandise Mart (Brown and Purple lines) and La Adelita, which offers Mexican tortas, outside Clinton and Lake streets (Green and Pink lines), according to their Twitter pages.

Roll credits on the holiday train

This is the final week of the CTA holiday train, which will travel Tuesday on the Red Line, Wednesday on the Purple Line and Thursday on the Yellow Line. Go to redychicago.com/holidaytrain to upload your holiday train snaps.

RIDER'S BLOCK

My pledge to ride every CTA bus line continues. I rode the No. 54A-North Cicero/Skokie Blvd this week and boiled my review down to a tweet.

@tracyswartz 53 min from Irving Park Blue Line to Skokie courthouse. Shorter bus fills quick. Rush hr only. See new Oakton Yellow Line stop being built.

Record: 138 routes down, 1 to go!
Next up: No. 85A-North Central.

DAILY DEBATE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Guilty Santas

What is your guilty pleasure during the holidays? That's what we asked the RedEye staff. Here's what they told us.



Apple cider. Isn't it just warm, special apple juice? Better question: DO I GIVE A CRAP?

—Ernest Wilkins,
 @remixchicago



Teaming up with my dad to chuck my grandma's gum-drop bread in the trash.

Bombs away!
 —Dana Moran, @redyedana



Bringing food to the gym and binging while working out.

Huge time-saver.
 —Matt Pais, @mattpais



Running into old classmates and silently judging them for never leaving our tiny hometown.

—Emily Van Zandt,
 @mmxbars



BIG TALKERS

How reclusive and bizarre was Kim Jong Il? We asked RedEye's readers what they knew about the North Korean leader before news broke of his death. Which of these answers are accurate and which are merely "Team America" jokes? Only Kim Jong Il would know for sure.

I knew he was a sadistic megalomaniac. Now I find out he was a real jerk, too. —Rob Conrad

He loved the NBA. —Paul V. Howard

Um ... that he was a person. I honestly thought he was already dead. —Katie Anne

He was very lonely. —Allison Bos

He told the people of N Korea that he invented everything. —Kirsten Nelson

That he was short, obsessed with power, and that people loved to make fun of him. —Caress Thirus

He enjoyed jeans, U.S. music and fashion. —Chris Barrett

I knew nothing about him except he had a brother. Mentally II. —Danny Caccioppo

Just the sunglasses. —Jenna Myers Karvunidis

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BE OUR NEIGHBOR

What's going on where you live? Check out RedEye's neighborhood news and opinions at redyechicago.com/hoods.



Daisy (left) and Audrey perform a lap dance for Brian MacDonald after he donated a child's toy at the Admiral Theatre. (Note: Photo was taken in a mirror.) REUTERS

Strip club extends offer after 'SNL' mention

By Mick Swasko

REDEYE

A gift drive that offered lap dances in exchange for the donation of a child's toy was supposed to end this weekend at the Admiral Theatre in Albany Park. However, media attention and a mention on "Saturday Night Live" have prompted the strip club to extend the offer.

Last week, the adult-entertainment venue offered a \$10 lap dance to anyone who brought in an unused toy for charity, said Tim Brown, who handles marketing for the club. The drive was set to expire Sunday, but it will continue to accept what comedian Jimmy Fallon referred to this weekend as "Toys for T's" through Wednesday.

This is the second year the club has offered its Lap Dances for the Needy drive, but the event caught significantly more attention this year. Brown said his Facebook page was flooded Monday with friends commenting on the theater being mentioned on "Weekend Update" on "Saturday Night Live."

In the segment, Amy Poehler and Tina Fey teamed with host Fallon and Seth Meyers to exchange quips about the unusual offer: "The most popular toy so far is Tickle Me Brenda," Poehler suggested. "So remember, kids, that's not Christmas magic, that's stripper glitter," Meyers shot back.

"My mouth dropped," Brown said. "I was excited to see [cast members] making fun of

our club."

Radio shows, blogs and news organizations have picked up on the story as well, but Brown said that wasn't the intent. The drive was advertised only on the club's site and through a mass email to customers, he said. Although past events such as a Sarah Palin look-alike contest were looking to make headlines, the toy drive was intended only to do good, he said.

"We're here, we're a business just like anybody else, and as an active business and a family-run organization, one of the things we like to do is give back," he said. "That's all it is. Anyone else who thinks it's indecent or not in the tradition of the holidays, they can turn the other cheek and they can ignore it."

DAILY QUOTABLE



“This motion was prepared without any adequate forethought.”

— U.S. District Judge James Zagel, in denying a motion from convicted former Gov. Rod Blagojevich's lawyers alleging that a juror may have flouted the judge's orders regarding jury questionnaires

EXPRESS LINES

» No one was hurt but passengers had to be moved to another CTA bus when it leaked diesel fuel in the Loop on Monday afternoon. The southbound No. 146 Inner Drive/Michigan Express bus was on State Street when it began leaking fuel at 12:37 p.m. at Monroe Street.

» Charges have been filed against a South Side man who Chicago police said stole a taxi cab in the Gold Coast and struck a police car as he fled.

» U.S. Postal Service officials estimated that more than 1.7 million cards were mailed from Chicago on Monday, the busiest mailing day of the holidays, according to The Associated Press.

» Police are looking for a 13-year-old girl who went missing Saturday in Little Village. Stephanie Ortiz was last seen Saturday in the 3000 block of South St. Louis Avenue, according to Harrison Area detectives.

TRIBUNE

Sex charges against driver dismissed

A Cook County judge on Monday dismissed felony sexual assault charges against a grocery deliveryman accused last month of attacking a female customer in her South Loop home. After hearing the testimony of the 21-year-old woman in a preliminary hearing Monday, Criminal Court Judge Peggy Chiampas cited inconsistencies in her account in throwing out the charges against Guillermo Balingit, 36, of Chicago, according to attorneys for both sides.

Lake View East man sentenced for child porn

A 76-year-old Lake View East man was sentenced to 12 years in federal prison for child pornography, authorities announced Monday. Winton Nail was sentenced Friday, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office. He pleaded guilty in January 2010 to two counts of transporting and shipping child pornography, one count of receiving child pornography, and two counts of possessing child pornography, all via computer.

2 shot in apparent road rage incident

Two men were shot, one critically, Monday morning in what Chicago police suspected was a road rage incident. The shooting is believed to have occurred at about 12:20 a.m. in the 6100 block of West Fullerton Avenue in Belmont Central, police said, citing early reports. Both victims were admitted gang members, but police hadn't determined whether that played a role in the shooting. **TRIBUNE**



Dozens of laminated signs have been handed out to homeless people across Chicago. HEATHER CHARLES/TRIBUNE

Signs of the times: Homelessness

Chicago Tribune

Sitting on a milk crate that put him at knee level to passers-by on Michigan Avenue one fading Monday afternoon, LeRoy Harden nodded off, his head dipping beneath the hood of his gray sweatshirt, a hand-scrawled sign in a box beside him.

It was a familiar scene. So familiar it was almost easy to ignore.

Almost, because one detail stood out: a second sign, in his gloved hands, on laminated white paper that read in towering black letters, "Homeless."—all the way down to the period.

A thin young man wearing dark-framed glasses had offered him the sign a couple of months earlier while Harden sat on his usual corner of Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive.

"It gets to the point without me having to say anything," said Harden, who has been on the streets for much the past 10 years and acknowledged he had been convicted of several crimes, mostly drug-related, since the early '90s. "It doesn't get messed up when it rains. It makes it easier."

The man in the dark frames was Christopher Devine, 28, who grew up a world away from the homelessness of Chicago—on the North Shore, where he attended New Trier High School. Since October, he has distributed about 150 signs to panhandlers.

Some say "Homeless." and others say "Please help." All are printed on white paper in distinctive, blocky Helvetica. If you spend much time downtown, you've probably noticed the signs.

Devine said he is not an advocate for panhandling and in fact rarely gives cash to people on the street. Rather, he said, he is an advocate for the homeless.

"This project accepts the reality that in the absence of major systemic overhaul, there will be panhandling," he said.

The idea came to Devine this fall when he noticed a woman on Michigan Avenue holding a sign bearing the long narrative of her homelessness. Between the scrawled handwriting and tattered cardboard, it was illegible to most passers-by.

"Nobody was going to stop and read the sign in its entirety," said Devine, who writes for and about dictionaries. "I thought, 'What's the message she was trying to get across?'"



OUT AND ABOUT

An albino raccoon makes an appearance in daylight on an Oak Park street Monday.

ALEX GARCIA/TRIBUNE



Redbox coming to CTA

Redbox rental kiosks have been installed at the Wellington station on the Brown Line and the UIC-Halsted station on the Blue Line. Kiosks also are coming to the following stations: Polk on the Pink Line; Jackson on the Blue Line; Damen on the Brown Line; and 35th-Bronzeville-IIT on the Green Line. They also are scheduled for the 47th Street, 95th/Dan Ryan, Fullerton, Belmont and Loyola stations on the Red Line.

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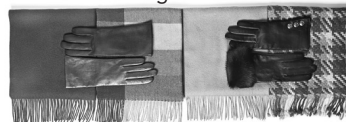
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Is this the end of ATM fees?

1 Starting next year, you may be able to visit a non-bank ATM without having to fork over a fistful of dollars in fees. There is one catch, however: You'll have to watch a commercial while you wait.

Free ATMs NYC, which was founded by 25-year-old Clinton Townsend, began testing a fee-free ATM in Brooklyn last month and plans to launch several thousand of the advertiser-funded ATMs throughout the country by the end of next year.

If this small company proves successful, experts in the industry think the idea could be used on a much larger scale, potentially changing the ATM landscape.

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Tax cut vote looms

2 House Republican leaders put off until Tuesday a vote on a Senate plan to extend the payroll tax cut and said they were willing to work until the end of the year to negotiate a compromise with Senate Democrats. The delayed vote followed a day of escalating brinksmanship.

Warrant for Iraq VP

3 An Iraqi investigative committee issued an arrest warrant Monday for Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi, who is accused of orchestrating bombing attacks.

Obama: Let women keep the peace

4 President Obama released a U.S. plan Monday to promote the role of women in preventing conflict and keeping the peace, designed to get more women seated at negotiating tables around the world.

Teen sentenced for killing gay classmate

5 A Southern California teen who pleaded guilty to killing a gay classmate was sentenced Monday to 21 years in prison. Brandon McInerney was 14 years old when he shot 15-year-old Lawrence King twice at point-blank range in the back of the head.



Nuns visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem on Monday. Some Christian pilgrims and tourists make it a point to visit the traditional birthplace of Jesus to celebrate Christmas Eve. GETTY IMAGES

THE BREAKDOWN

Here are the countries with the Top 10 Christian populations, according to the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

- 1 U.S.**
246.8 million
- 2 Brazil**
175.8 million
- 3 Mexico**
107.8 million
- 4 Russia**
105.2 million
- 5 Philippines**
86.8 million
- 6 Nigeria**
80.5 million
- 7 China**
67.1 million
- 8 DR Congo**
63.2 million
- 9 Germany**
58.2 million
- 10 Ethiopia**
52.6 million

WHERE ARE THE CHRISTIANS?

Christians are by far the largest religious group on the planet, and the religion has gone truly global during the past century, according to a new report out Monday, which finds some of the world's biggest Christian communities in surprising places.

Europe was the clear center of world Christianity 100 years ago, but today the Americas are home to more than one-third of all Christians. In fact, the U.S. has the world's largest Christian population, of about 247 million, fol-

lowed by Brazil and Mexico.

China also appears on the list of top 10 largest Christian populations—with an estimated 67 million Christians, it has more followers of the faith than any western European country.

There are nearly 2.2 billion Christians around the world, making up about one-third of the world's population—the same percentage as a century ago, according to the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

Islam is the world's second largest religion,

with about 1.6 billion followers worldwide, the Washington-based organization calculates. That's just under one-quarter of the estimated 2010 world population of 6.9 billion.

Sub-Saharan Africa has seen the biggest explosion in its Christian population in the past century, going from about 9 million Christians in 1910 to about 516 million today—nearly a quarter of all the world's Christians.

The report calculates that half the world's Christians are Catholic, 37 percent are Protestants and 12 percent are Orthodox. The remaining 1 percent belong to other traditions such as Mormonism.



THE DIGIT

\$4.5 MILLION

That's how much the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., received to fund its giant panda program, which faces a lack of cubs produced by its two adults, the zoo said. The donor was David M. Rubenstein, founder and managing director of The Carlyle Group, a private equity firm.



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RIP'S CITY

What can we learn about the new Bulls guard in his debut?

RedEye

While the rest of the NBA was scrambling to trade for Chris Paul or sign Caron Butler or get the latest dirt on Kobe Bryant's divorce, the Bulls quietly tried to improve last season's winningest NBA team.

How'd they do that?

By signing veteran shooting guard Richard Hamilton of Detroit.

Is he the piece of the Bulls puzzle that gets them past the Miami Heat and into the NBA Finals for the first time since the Jordan era? Time will tell.

But we'll begin to get an idea Tuesday when Rip, as he's known, likely makes his Bulls debut against the Indiana Pacers.

Here are some questions we have about Rip that may or may not be answered Tuesday.

Mask or no mask?

Hamilton has worn a clear plastic mask on his face since the 2004 season, when he had his nose broken twice and was advised to wear it the rest of his career or risk significant injury. It became one of his trademarks, like Patrick Kane's dangling mouth guard, and Hamilton has called it his Superman cape. But will the tradition that began in Detroit continue in Chicago? Tune in to find out.

Headband?

Along with his mask, Hamilton traditionally has worn a headband. The Bulls are famously known for not allowing headbands. Who wins?

Is he better than Bogans?

Last year's starting Bulls shooting guard, Keith Bogans, averaged 4.4 points per game. Four-point-four! Hamilton, in his 12th year in the league, averaged 14.4 points per game in 2010-11. We won't even expect that this season. We'll take 10 per game and be giddy after watching Bogans.

Does he look 33?

There's no getting around the fact that at 33-34 in February—Hamilton is old by NBA standards. Someday he's going to start playing like an old man. Hopefully that happens a few years from now.

Bulls vs. Indiana
7 p.m. CSN

Richard Hamilton
GETTY IMAGES

Don't let Bears ruin Christmas



Alex Quigley

» redeye@tribune.com
» [@alexquigley](https://twitter.com/alexquigley)

Christmas night is going to suck.

I don't care if the Bulls beat the Lakers by 30 that afternoon. It doesn't matter if Santa comes down your chimney with Charlize Theron and a PlayStation 4. There's a nationally televised Bears-Packers game that evening, and Chicago will be starting a quarterback who's

either 1) Caleb Hanie or 2) a guy bad enough to still be listed behind Caleb Hanie on the depth chart as I write this.

But we'll watch. It's Bears-Packers.

Most of us will have the next day off, and technically the Bears will have playoff life left. So if you're going to suffer four quarters of season-killing misery to cap off the happ-happ-happiest Christmas since Rex Grossman tap-danced with Bernard effin' Berrian, you'd might as well have fun:

» Tweak the tint/color settings on the TV until green and gold appear blue and orange-ish. Then place your finger over the horizontal line of the "G" in the Packers logo. Holy crap, these Delusional Bears are kicking ass!

» If Nathan Enderle enters the game, begin sketching your surroundings. You'll want to have a frame-worthy memento that proves you were there the day the NFL died.

» If you're lucky enough to still be in your fantasy playoffs, cheer obnoxiously for the result of every single play like it just won you \$10,000.

» Every time the Bears offense goes three-and-out, drink. Every time they go two-and-out, drink five times. Every time they fumble away a kickoff or punt return, be thankful that they simply cut out the middleman.

» If Roy Williams makes the first-down signal at any time during the contest, tweet something about how much you hate when he does that. That'll show him!

» Whenever an obese, shirtless Packers fan is shown in the stands, chuckle to yourself before realizing that after President Obama, the celeb who's most identified nationally with the Bears is Jim Belushi.

» If you're watching with Packers fans, remind them that they lost to Kansas City. Trust me, they're crying on the inside.

Merry Christmas?

ALEX QUIGLEY CAN BE HEARD ON 720 WGN RADIO.

INDY CITY

Clark Jones makes people laugh here and at 8 p.m. Tuesday at Zanies in Old Town. Tell him RedEye sent ya.



Phil Thompson
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Clark Jones
@clarknyss
Stand-up comic



Christine Pawlak
@electrachicago
Radio host/
writer

1 What's the danger in playing back-to-back games with the Indiana Pacers?	Pacers: "Hey, since we're both heading to Chicago, we can ride together!" Bulls: "Uhhhhh ..."	They probably won't fall for the bucket of confetti trick during the second game.	Exposure to the life-threatening new disease of Whitebasketballiosis.	Carlos Boozer may sprain his wrist hitting the slot machines.	Prolonged exposure to Jeff Foster is hazardous to your health.
2 What might the Bulls learn about their team in two preseason games?	They can look down and see who has a new shoe contract. That's about it.	What color suit Scalabrino will be wearing most games.	Omer Asik establishing himself as not just the best player in northwestern Turkish history, but western Turkey as a whole.	Hopefully how to execute that one go-to play called "give it to Derrick Rose."	Brian Scalabrino learned a bunch of card tricks during the lockout.
3 How will fans welcome the Bulls back to the United Center on Tuesday?	Since they missed the annual circus trip this year, a night with Scott and Clark will have to do.	By snapping up discounted Janner Pargo jerseys.	By cheering at an inopportune time in the game when those morons with launchers shoot T-shirts into the seats.	With open arms! Only if they brought us back some cheap gas from Indiana.	The Madhouse should shake like Jim Cornelson is singing.
4 Which one Bears player/coach/exec absolutely should not be back in 2012?	Jerry Angelo. I'd make a joke but I already said "Jerry Angelo."	Andrew Hayes-Stoker, offensive quality control coach.	Corey Graham. Believe me; you'll never win a Super Bowl with Corey Graham as your starting gunner.	Dane Sanzenbacher; my grandmother keeps calling him Worcestershire sauce.	If Caleb Hanie never throws for the Bears again, it'll be a Christmas miracle.
5 The Bears are mathematically in the playoff hunt but realistically I was told there would be no math.	... there are no sines of hope. Boom. Math joke.	... not even close to a playoff hunt, but still in another hunt—for a new supplier	... have a Sam Hurd's chance in court of making the postseason.	... they have about the same chance as the Colts. Bah humbug.

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2011 STUDS AND DUDS

Readers: Help us salute Chicago's best—and mock the worst

RedEye

Yes, it's that time of year again. When everybody and their mother looks back at the year in sports and we either shake our head in disgust or give a "hell yeah!" to a job well done.

RedEye is no different. We're recognizing the Chicago sports studs and duds of 2011 in an issue of RedEye next week. But first, we need a little help from our twisted, loyal readers.

Send your suggestions for the best and worst of Chicago sports via email to redeye.sports@tribune.com, on Twitter to [@redeyesports](https://twitter.com/redeyesports) or just leave us a note on our Facebook page, facebook.com/redeyesports.

Nominations already have started to trickle in, including the usual suspects such as Bulls star Derrick Rose, White Sox underachiever Adam Dunn, the Blackhawks trio of Patrick Kane, Jonathan Toews and Patrick Sharp and Bears Matt Forte and Marion Barber.

When our list of nominations is complete, readers will vote for the studs and duds of 2011, crowning a winner and a loser.

Let 'er rip, sports fans.

Ventura, the actor

New White Sox manager Robin Ventura will appear in "A Christmas Carol" at the Goodman Theatre on Wednesday. Ventura appears along with Emily Beazley, a 9-year-old recently diagnosed with Stage 3 Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, in partnership with Make-A-Wish Foundation. Bravo, Robin. Bravo.



'Tebow' busts drug trafficker

Is there anything Denver quarterback Tim Tebow can't do? The latest "Tebow" victory is the takedown of a suspected drug smuggler at Orlando International Airport, according to the Orlando Sentinel. Tebow the drug-sniffing dog, that is. The canine found the drugs in a children's toy on Dec. 8. Give him a treat.

THE DIGIT

11

Number of holes-in-one the late Kim Jong Il hit in his very first round of golf ever, according to North Korean state media.



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movies

Rooney Mara and Daniel Craig
in 'The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo'



THE GIRL WITH THE NOW FAMOUS NAME

**Little-known actress busts onto the
A-list with 'Dragon Tattoo'**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

"Rooney who?" is not a question people will be asking much longer.

At 7 p.m. Tuesday, David Fincher's adaptation of "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo"—the first installment in the U.S. version of Stieg Larsson's mega-selling "Millennium Trilogy"—opens in theaters. And there Rooney Mara will be, pale, pierced and punked-out, hacking into encrypted

databases, sleeping with Daniel Craig (and with a woman she picks up at a bar), taking vengeance on a sicko state-appointed guardian ... if you've read the book, you know what's in store.

And Mara, who until now was pretty much unknown to the world, is Lisbeth Salander, the small, fierce, androgynous Swede with the photographic memory and the childhood trauma kicking around in her head. Mara won the role over the likes of Scarlett

Johansson, Natalie Portman and a bevy of other big-name stars.

On Thursday, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced its nominees for the Golden Globes, and Rooney Mara was on the list. So yes, before "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" even opens, we can say that it is Mara's breakthrough role. With that in mind, here are five things you might not know about the 26-year-old up-and-comer.

REDEYE CONTRIBUTED

THE DRAGON LADY



FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

» mpais@tribune.com
» @mattpais

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R)

!!! No hard feelings, Danish director Niels Arden Oplev. In helping the poorly paced 2009 Swedish version of "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo," you tried your best. But David Fincher now owns you.

With his English-language take on Stieg Larsson's massively popular book, the director of "The Social Network" and "Se7en"

eases up on the story's rub-your-face-in-the-horror-of-sexual-violence aspects and focuses on a relentless pursuit of justice, not savagery.

Even the three people in the universe who haven't read the book (including yours truly) may now understand what all the fuss is about.

Rooney Mara, masking her soft beauty behind drab clothing, face piercings and eyes that say "Don't F with me," takes over from Noomi Rapace as Lisbeth Salander, the world's No. 1 tattooed, motorcycle-riding bisexual hacker. As everyone probably already knows, Lisbeth's rough life gets rougher when she's assigned to a criminally sleazy new guardian (Yorick van Wageningen of "The Way"), whose more understated

introduction this time around only makes his transition to abusive monster that much more horrifying.

Meanwhile Lisbeth's former investigation subject and eventual partner, discredited journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig), has a chance to redeem his reporting skills when Henrik Vanger (Christopher Plummer) assigns him to explore the disappearance of his granddaughter 40 years ago. Why he waited this long to ask for help is anyone's guess.

Does the movie need to be close to three hours long? No. Blomkvist learns about many Vanger family members but uncovers few plausible, intriguing suspects, and issues of professional credibility and financial dishonesty tend to become dwarfed once

anal rape and Tasers get involved. The movie pulses anyway. It's longer but tighter than its predecessor and propelled by a script by Steven Zaillian ("Schindler's List") that finds dark humor to temper all the bad behavior.

Fincher may not have a case as gripping as in his film "Zodiac," but he turns Craig's Blomkvist into less of a bore and Mara's Lisbeth, whose tattoo has shrunk without diminishing her mysterious charisma, into a living example of the terrors of family and the resilience of one of recent literature's best badasses.

The Swedish movie left a sleepy sensation with a nasty aftertaste; "Tattoo" 3.0 throbs as a tale of good people wanting to right wrongs with the truth if possible, and with violence if necessary.



FROM DRAB TO DRAGON

GETTY IMAGES

- 1 Jan. 19, 2009
- 2 Sept. 15, 2009
- 3 Jan. 6, 2010
- 4 April 27, 2010
- 5 Nov. 14, 2011
- 6 Dec. 14, 2011

She's a football blue blood

Mara is the maternal great-granddaughter of Art Rooney, founder of the Pittsburgh Steelers, and paternal great-granddaughter of Tim Mara, founder of the New York Giants. But she's not obsessed with football, she told Allure magazine. "My whole family is really into it. I'm not," she said. "But I do really like it, and of course I appreciate it because of my family—it's a huge part of my heritage."

You've seen her before

Mara has appeared in films such as "A Nightmare on Elm Street" and "The Social Network" and on TV shows such as "Law & Order: SVU" and "ER." Of her appearance in "SVU," her first big acting gig, she told TV Guide: "It's an experience I hold very dear to my heart ... I was more nervous doing that job than I was doing ['Dragon Tattoo']."

You've seen her sister too

Mara's sister, Kate, also is an actress. Her credits include the films "We Are Marshall," "Brokeback Mountain," "Iron Man 2" and "127 Hours," and TV shows such as "American Horror Story," "24" and "Entourage." Rooney Mara told Allure there is no sibling rivalry between the sisters. "[Kate] is probably much more likable than I am—she's really outgoing and fun," she said.

She'll do (almost) anything for her craft

To keep things authentic in "Dragon Tattoo," Mara got her nipple pierced. "Yeah, I got to live out my childhood rebellion," she told The Philadelphia Inquirer. "The childhood rebellion I never really had."

The nude Lisbeth in the film is all Rooney Mara

Mara did not use a body double, which was another reason she got her piercing. "Nudity is such a huge part of the character in the book, so I never thought twice about it," she told Allure. "There was no time for hesitation. I didn't have time to second-guess anything or be scared: I just showed up and was comfortable."

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Craig goes from Bond to bondage

By Miki Turner

FOR REDEYE

There's a scene in "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" in which Daniel Craig is in bondage—no pun intended.

His character, Mikael Blomkvist, has been strapped into a device and is being flung about the room as if he were a Cirque du Soleil performer with a plastic bag over his head.

According to "Tattoo" director David Fincher, things went very wrong. Although Craig had a small metal device in his hand to pop the plastic bag in case it became too hard for him to breathe, Fincher and the crew didn't realize that he was having difficulty until they heard the piece of metal hit the floor.

"He was acting like he was suffocating, which is not very different from actually suffocating," Fincher said during a recent press event in New York. "I'm watching the monitor and we hear, 'ting, ting, ting.' He had passed out. We wrapped then and on the production report I wrote, 'let Daniel go 15 minutes early due to unconsciousness!'"

Although Craig joked that he took the constricting apparatus that was attached to his

pelvic region home, the only other comment he made regarding that incident was, "Just another day working with David Fincher."

Fincher is known for shooting as many as 40 takes per scene, but that didn't bother Craig at all.

"You don't count," he said. "Sometimes you get worse and worse but when someone throws a lot of money at you to do something like this, you're there to get it right. Sure, things get frustrating during the workday but there are lots of other things to get frustrated about and then there's the triumphs at the end of the day, so you just kind of don't get down about it."

Craig's Blomkvist is a tarnished journalist who works with an oddball computer hacker named Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara) to track down a killer. Shot on location in Sweden and based on the bestseller by Stieg Larsson, "Tattoo" is expected to be a huge hit during the holiday season.

Unlike James Bond, Mikael is a more cerebral character for Craig. Fincher said he was sold on Craig playing Blomkvist because of his energy and work ethic. He and Craig



Rooney Mara and Daniel Craig

immediately developed a priceless ability to communicate without words, which comes in handy during those multiple takes.

"I knew him to be self-effacing and I knew him to be playful and witty," Fincher said. "I also wanted a very masculine kind of center to the film. I was looking for sort of a Robert Mitchum center."

Craig just wanted to make the character as believable as possible, he said.

"The reality in 'Tattoo' is that Mikael gets shot at and he runs away screaming—[laughs]—like anyone else would," he said. "What I love about this character is that he doesn't have to prove he's a man. He doesn't go around beating his chest, and he's very happy to fall into this relationship where [Lisbeth] is literally wearing the trousers."

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Common
BRENT LEWIS/
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CD REVIEW



The Dreamer, The Believer

Common

!!!! Common seems to have reached that sweet spot in a rap career where he can get away with a “man of many faces” act on a record and it doesn’t ring hollow. You know an album is going to be interesting when one of the first things you hear is Maya Angelou.

With Common shifting seamlessly between Chicago-style bravado on “So Sweet” and grown man reflection on “Love I Lost” and “The Believer,” the album feels like you’re seeing different pieces of the same human being, which can be refreshing in contrast to the over-the-top cartoonishness of some modern rap.

It’s worthwhile to mention that Chicago producing legend NO I.D. (aka the guy who gave the world Kanye West) helms the entire album’s sound, a partnership that defined Common’s first three albums. Sometimes, all it takes is dancing with the one that brought ya.

Highest recommendation. **ERNEST WILKINS, REDEYE**

Sandler song Jewish, now new-ish



Newsday

Adam Sandler (left) says he wrote “The Chanukah Song”—an ode to well-known Jews in all walks of life—because Jewish kids needed something to call their own during the holiday season. With the Festival of Lights beginning Tuesday night, there’s no better time to clue you in on five things to know about the ditty, which has become almost as iconic as “I Have a Little Dreidel.”

‘CHANUKAH SONG’ FACTS

- » Sandler wrote the song, along with “SNL” staff writers Lewis Morton and Ian Maxtone-Graham.
- » He performed it for the first time on the “Weekend Update” segment on Dec. 3, 1994.
- » Among the Jewish celebrities mentioned in that version were the Three Stooges, Kirk Douglas and David Lee Roth.
- » He re-recorded the song twice, adding more famous names each time. The 1999 version included Bruce Springsteen, “who isn’t Jewish, but my mother thinks he is.” The 2002 edition, recorded for Sandler’s movie “Eight Crazy Nights,” referenced Jews like Paula Abdul and Joey Ramone and non-Jews like Marlon Brando (“not a Jew at all, but it looks to me like he ate one!”).
- » In 2009, Neil Diamond covered the song on his holiday album, “A Cherry Cherry Christmas.”

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Bags of lemon shortbread cookies (\$7), dipped in chocolate and sprinkled with blue nonpareils, make a stellar Hanukkah host or hostess gift. Magnolia also sells a **peppermint-infused version of its retro icebox cake** with layers of chocolate wafers and whipped cream (\$26).

Ordering info: Call the bakery to reserve. Hanukkah items arrived in the store Friday; peppermint icebox cakes also are available but often sell out.

Holiday cookie boxes

Hilary's Cookies, 4917 N. Lincoln Ave. 312-285-5055

You can box up pre-packaged bags of mini-cookies or create your own combo with festive flavors such as eggnog and butterscotch pecan (\$20 for a box with three one-dozen bags).

Ordering info: Call the bakery to pre-order; owner Hilary Black also says she will have plenty on hand at her Lincoln Square store.



DESSERT-MAS

Deck your holiday party with decadent treats

By Erin Brereton

FOR REDEYE

Surviving this year's holiday party season will require more than just a few ugly sweaters. You'll need cookies. And chocolate. And probably pie.

Don't have time to lovingly bake your own bundt cake (or just don't want to)? Take one of these seasonal sweets to your next office potluck, family dinner or get-together with friends.



LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE FILE

Mini mincemeat pies

Pleasant House Bakery,
964 W. 31st St. 773-523-7437

The Bridgeport bakery recently whipped up these hors d'oeuvre-sized mincemeat pies for the British Consulate-General, and you also can order them for upcoming events. Owners (and spouses) Art Jackson and Chelsea Kalberloh Jackson's party-friendly mincemeat pies, made with dried fruits and nuts, are \$4 each with a minimum order of 12.

Ordering info: Call the bakery to order; 48-hour advance notice is recommended.

Eggnog cream pie

Bang Bang Pie Shop, 2051 N. California Ave.

This candy cane-garnished pie (\$24) is based on a recipe from chef/co-owner Megan Miller's great-grandmother, a former restaurateur and pie maker. Miller—who previously sold her old-fashioned pies via food truck—also offers **sweet potato pie** and a gingerbread custard pie topped with marshmallow whipped cream (both \$22).

Ordering info: The Logan Square shop doesn't open until January, but customers can order holiday pies (and arrange pickup times) at bangbangpies.com. Allow at least two days.



Chocolate buche de noel

Toni Patisserie & Cafe, 65 E. Washington St.
312-726-2020

Chocoholics will flip over this rich take on the traditional yule log

cake (\$35 to serve 6-8; \$57 to serve 12-14), made of Belgian chocolate mousse rolled with vanilla cake, coated with dark chocolate ganache and decorated with chocolate curls.

Ordering info: Call 312-726-2020; allow 24 hours.

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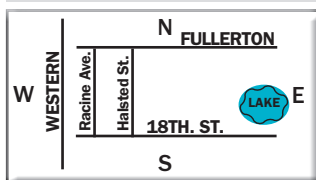
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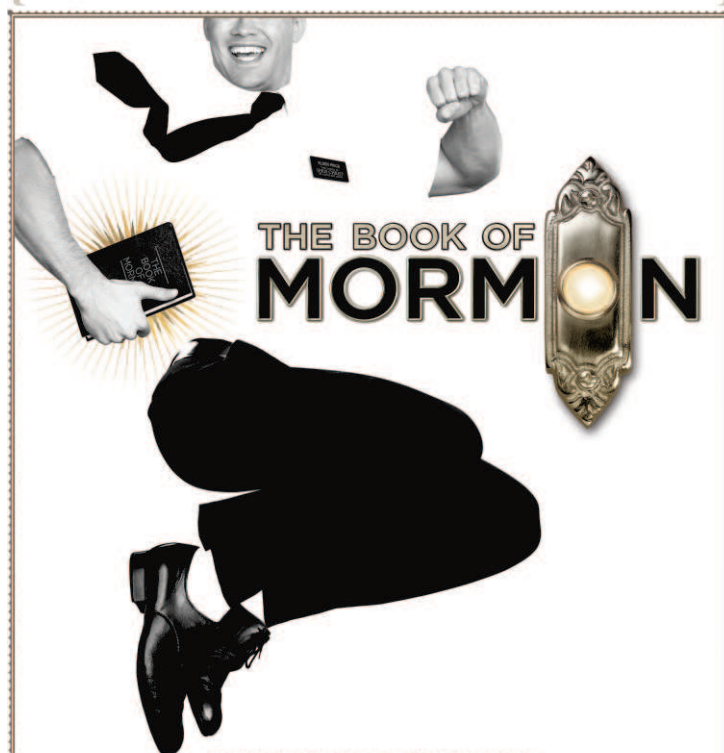
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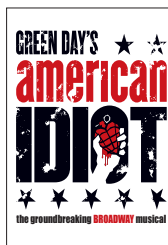


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NEW YORK TIMES, BEN BRANTLEY



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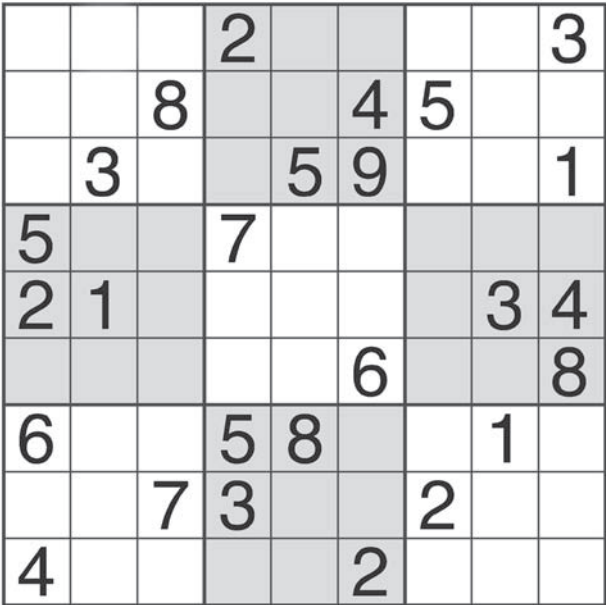
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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MONDAY'S SOLUTIONS

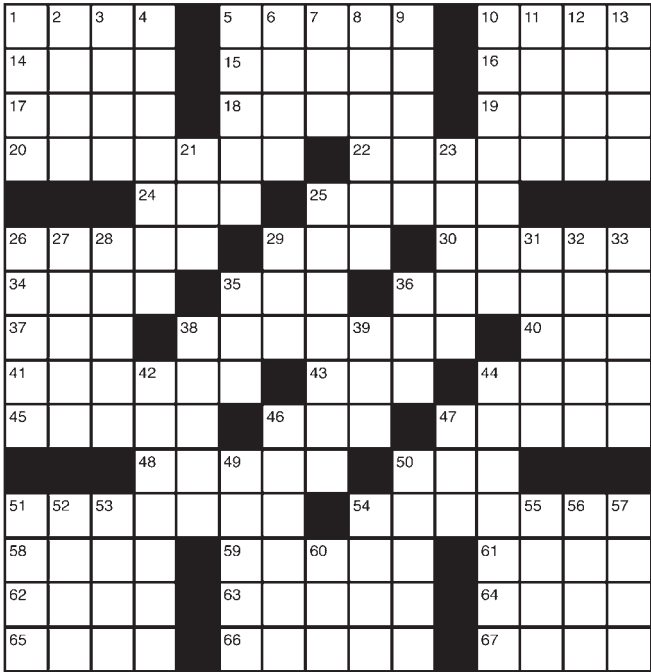
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ACROSS

- 1 Take a break
- 5 from; besides
- 10 Short letter
- 14 Skunk's defense
- 15 Sled racer
- 16 though; albeit
- 17 Ten-cent coin
- 18 Feel about blindly
- 19 Fix
- 20 Outstanding
- 22 Climbs
- 24 Falsehood
- 25 Bonet & others
- 26 Steer clear of
- 29 for the course; usual
- 30 Calls using an old phone
- 34 MDs, familiarly
- 35 Upper limb
- 36 Give; grant
- 37 Perform
- 38 Tiny bit of rain
- 40 Bartender's cubes
- 41 Of the Celts
- 43 to lunch; distracted
- 44 in; wearing
- 45 Singer/pianist John
- 46 Swamp
- 47 Book spine info
- 48 Stolen
- 50 Facial twitch
- 51 Foolish talk
- 54 King or queen
- 58 jacket; buoyant vest
- 59 Biblical tower
- 61 Surrealist Salvador
- 62 Actor Sharif
- 63 Ring-shaped island
- 64 Very eager
- 65 Actor Grant
- 66 Outscores
- 67 Clockmaker Thomas

DOWN

- 1 Drape holders
- 2 Blue-pencil
- 3 Partial amount
- 4 Climbing plant
- 5 Seaweeds
- 6 Kitten's sound
- 7 In the past
- 8 Patch up
- 9 Lock of hair
- 10 Formidable foe
- 11 Microwave
- 12 Take care of
- 13 Finishes
- 21 Can cover
- 23 West Point student
- 25 Harsh satire
- 26 Proverb
- 27 Outspoken
- 28 Group of eight
- 29 Expert
- 31 Leaning
- 32 From the neighborhood
- 33 Stockholm resident
- 35 Curved band of sparks
- 36 Wager
- 38 TV's Shore
- 39 Haul
- 42 Often state-run game
- 44 Noisy insects
- 46 Bawl out
- 47 Can material
- 49 Shish ; BBQ favorite
- 50 Drivers' fees
- 51 Voting alliance
- 52 beans
- 53 In the distance
- 54 Dissolve
- 55 In a ; irate
- 56 Blood problem
- 57 On drugs
- 60 Feathery scarf



TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

1946: The Frank Capra film "It's A Wonderful Life" had a preview showing for charity at New York City's Globe Theatre, a day before its official world premiere.
1976: Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley died of a heart attack in his doctor's office; he was 74.
2001: The U.N. Security Council authorized a multinational force for Afghanistan.

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IF YOU WATCH
MTV's NYE in NYC 2012

Where: 10 p.m. Dec. 31, MTV

Musical guests: Demi Lovato, Selena Gomez, Jason Derulo, Mac Miller, J. Cole

Joke's on you

Who's the new trickster (or tricksters) on MTV's 'Punk'd'?

By **Dana Moran** | REDEYE

Sorry, **Ashton Kutcher**, but 33 is too old to be playing tricks on people (especially Demi Moore). The original "Punk'd" host will step into an executive-producing role for the show's reboot, MTV announced Monday. Justin Bieber has been rumored as a possible host, but the network won't reveal its new jokester (or jokesters) until its New Year's Eve special. This means they've got time to call some of the folks on our wish list.

DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEDANA

GETTY IMAGES FILE



Donald Glover

The "Community" star already punk'd America this year when he released his rap album, "Camp," under the moniker Childish Gambino. If this comedian can secretly be awesome at hip-hop, we're sure he's got plenty more tricks up his sleeve.



Katherine Heigl

We use the word "star" rather loosely when it comes to Katherine, but moviegoers seem to enjoy being punk'd by monstrosities such as "New Year's Eve," "Killers," "27 Dresses," "The Ugly Truth," etc., so why not see how she does on the small screen? The smaller the better.



Selena Gomez

We're literally choosing her only so she can pull a fast one on das Bieb by pretending to be pregnant with some random dude's baby. This will result in tears (his), cackles of joy (ours) and hopefully no actual pregnancy, because this isn't "Teen Mom."



Taylor Swift

Girlfriend just turned 22, and she'd still like us all to believe that she's the cutest, purest, most virginal thing on the planet. (Britney Spears tried this one time too. Also, please, she dated John Mayer.) It's time for Tay to grow up in a big way, and what better network to start bringing out her dark side than MTV?



Jack Black

Wah-hah, and you thought Ashton was too old! While we were pleasantly surprised to see Jack in "The Muppets," the much-more-famous half of Tenacious D has been rolling way too quietly lately. Time to bring back this signature oddball—and we bet it's really easy to disguise him as any number of smarmy characters.

You could have slept exactly 8 more minutes ...

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red hot**AUG. 8**Coldplay added a second tour date—in addition to the band's previously scheduled Aug. 7 concert—at the United Center. Tickets went on sale Monday at livenation.com.**Common**
GETTY IMAGES

“SHE KNOWS I DO USE THE WORD. SHE KNOWS THAT’S PART OF ME.”

Common, to the New York Post, responding to Maya Angelou's disappointment that the Chicago MC used the N-word in a song that also included a poem she had written and recited for the track. The song, "The Dreamer," is on "The Dreamer, The Believer," which drops Tuesday.

» Turn to **Page 20** for a review of Common's new record.

**Chicago's favorite flick**

Take note, Academy. "The Tree of Life" was named best picture Monday by the Chicago Film Critics Association. Terrence Malick also won best director for the film. Michael Shannon won best actor for "Take Shelter," and Michelle Williams was best actress as Marilyn Monroe in "My Week with Marilyn."

Teacher's pest

"D" is for dismissal? In a lawsuit, a New York University professor says he was fired for giving James Franco a D, the New York Post reports. "The school has bent over backwards to create a Franco-friendly environment, that's for sure," professor Jose Angel Santana told The Post. "The university has done everything in its power to curry favor with James Franco."

Dancing alone

Chaz Bono, Cher's son and a recent contestant on "Dancing With the Stars," has broken up with his fiancée, according to online.com. Bono, who publicly transitioned from living as a woman to a man, proposed to Jennifer Elia last month. "Thanks for your concern about our separation. I'm doing fine," Bono tweeted, saying the two still were on good terms.

Bill Hader
REUTERS**Titanic pink slip**

How does a theater worker get back at annoying customers? If you're Bill Hader, and the rude customers are sorority sisters, you spoil the end of "Titanic." "I said, 'The boat sinks, Leo dies, the old lady—that's Kate Winslet—she has a jewel [that] she throws in the water at the end, so that's where that goes!'" the "Saturday Night Live" star told usmagazine.com. For the record, he was fired.

James Franco
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